



FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Drunk Driving. Over the limit. Under arrest.

Tallahassee – Anyone that has been impacted by drunk driving can tell you, nobody wins. From the offender that was arrested -- amassing legal fees, court costs, fines, jail time, and license suspensions -- to the victim in a car crash who has to have their vehicle repaired or recover from injuries sustained in the crash.

That is why the Florida Highway Patrol announced today they will be joining with thousands of other law enforcement and highway safety agencies across the nation from August 15 throughout the Labor Day holiday to take part in the *Drunk driving. Over the limit. Under arrest.* crackdown on impaired driving.

“Impaired driving is not an accident — it’s an epidemic of careless disregard for human life,” said Colonel John Czernis, director of the Florida Highway Patrol. “In 2006, there were over 22,000 alcohol related crashes in Florida, almost 1,000 less than there were in 2005. We want to keep that downward trend going by removing the impaired driver before they are involved in a crash. Our troopers will be vigilant in attempting to remove the drunk drivers from Florida’s roadways.”

“Driving with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08% or higher is illegal in every state yet we continue to see far too many people suffer from the bad choices made by impaired drivers,” said Electra Theodorides-Bustle, executive director of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. “Drunk driving is simply not worth the risk. Our department is committed to preventing senseless tragedy caused by drunk drivers.”

The Florida Highway Patrol will be conducting sobriety checkpoints and selective enforcement patrols throughout the state to identify and arrest those who make the decision to drive while under the influence of alcohol.

Don’t drink and drive!

For real-time traffic and road condition reports, as well as maps and other safety tips, the public is urged to visit the FHP website at www.flhsmv.gov/fhp/. Florida drivers can also call 511 on their cell

phone for up-to-the minute updates on traffic congestion, road construction, lane closures, severe weather and travel delays on Interstates and major highways.

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles encourages anyone with a valid Florida driver license or identification card to go online to www.flhsmv.gov and enter their emergency contact information. This vital information gives law enforcement immediate access to this information in cases of an emergency, which makes it easier for them to contact a family member or friend.